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Burn In: A Novel of the Real Robotic Revolution

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sympathetic engagement with divergent philosophies. He initiates a productive conversation among three theoretical adversaries, and in so doing points to the revisionist JWT position as one that effectively applies the most important tenets to the changing landscape of war. Equally important, Orend maintains the distinct criteria of *jus ad bellum*, *jus in bello*, and *jus post bellum* but asserts the interdependence of each for its logic and coherence. The inseparable connection of the different phases of war indicates the necessity of consistency between means and ends. Failure at any stage sabotages and undermines the validity of the *jus pax* (just peace) continuum: (1) an unjust cause, regardless of how nobly executed, will not culminate in a justly ordered peace after the war; (2) a war fought wrongly can bring into question the supposed just nature of its cause; and (3) a failed end state dishonors the service and sacrifices of those who died fighting for a virtuous cause.

As one of the leading voices who has defended *jus post bellum* as an authentic part of the JWT, Orend provides scholarship that is an interdisciplinary storehouse of knowledge filled with philosophical, political, and theological concepts and practices that enlighten both student and scholar with an astute reading of history and current affairs. In a word, Orend presents a promising revision of JWT via *jus post bellum* for international relations that liaises with the best of the three major theories of war and advocates a reinvigorated ethical viewpoint that synergizes classical and contemporary thoughts in a cohesive framework crucial for the twenty-first-century struggles of war fighting and peacemaking.

EDWARD ERWIN



Burn In: A Novel of the Real Robotic Revolution, by P. W. Singer and August Cole. New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2020. 432 pages. \$28.

Already well-known for his 2009 book *Wired for War*, P. W. Singer in 2016 collaborated with August Cole to write *Ghost Fleet: A Novel of the Next World War*. *Burn In* is their most recent collaboration. In this extensively researched novel, we follow FBI agent Lara Keegan as she trains with a robotic partner, TAMS, in a futuristic context in which machine/human interface is commonplace, but in which this integration also is the subject of political and social resistance and unrest. Her task is the “burn in”: testing the limits of such a partner for police and agency work. Part buddy film, part political thriller/mystery, and part science-fiction dystopic reflection on humanity, machines, and society, *Burn In* is truly engaging and “a good ride,” as great fiction can be. On a more philosophical level, it also is thought provoking and engaging on a multitude of contemporary issues, including personhood and personal identity, as well as trust.

First the novel engages the issues of personhood and personal identity across time, as discussed by philosophers John Locke and David Hume. Is TAMS a person? When TAMS is decommissioned at a certain point in the novel and another TAMS with the same memories and programming is brought back, is it the same TAMS? Through Keegan’s character, the decommissioning feels like a death, even a murder; in addition, something seems to be missing from the second TAMS, even as it offers increased capacities, such as deception.

Personhood is important for ethics and moral agency, and ultimately for moral responsibility. The machines in the novel know humans' psychological and other tendencies and preferences and can respond to appropriate, inappropriate, and manipulative ways of achieving mission success. Who really is making decisions and who has agency here—the machines or the humans? Keegan notes, "Machines don't have ethics. They can be programmed to lie and not even know it" (p. 92), supporting the classical view that machines are instruments, while humans retain agency and judgment. For instance, TAMS can sift quickly through data and analyze them as instructed, but it does not know what questions to ask or how to weight the data given. Agent Keegan, however, can deliver meaning, follow her experience-based intuition, and render judgments about the data and what to do with them.

Second, the issue of trust in many guises is woven throughout: trust between humans and machines, between humans, between citizens and their government, and within organizations. Whom can one trust, and what is the basis of this trust? Philosopher Annette C. Baier thinks of *trust* in terms of goodwill and vulnerability; we trust those we think have our best interests in mind around issues with which we need help ("Trust and Antitrust," *Ethics* 96, no. 2 [January 1986], pp. 234–35). This is quite different from trust in a context of military and technology discussions, where trust is about predictability and reliability. Can machines such as TAMS be trusted to exercise judgment and discretion relative to their expertise, as humans can? Or must humans maintain control of these kinds of judgments, since machines cannot be moral agents?

What kind of partner can TAMS be for Agent Keegan: a good partner, like a human partner—one that can be trusted? The novel tends to focus on trust as predictability—that is, the machine will not do anything unexpected; except that, by the end of the narrative, TAMS can engage in deception. At that point, Keegan muses about another option. "It didn't have to be a binary choice if she was willing to give a machine the most human gift of all. Not trust that TAMS would do what she expected, but trust that it would do the right thing on its own" (p. 370). *Right* is, of course, a loaded term, suggesting a definition of either "appropriate to the context" or "moral."

Personhood and trust highlight another theme in the novel: how we ought to approach society, in which the machine-human interface is but one aspect to consider. The high-tech-guru character Shaw views society as a problem to be solved and fixed rather than as an ongoing dynamic process. Keegan resists this view, as problem solving highlights control and predictability, while ongoing engagement and relationships of all kinds require Baier's more robust sense of trust, and perhaps an expanded notion of personhood.

PAULINE SHANKS KAURIN



Sailing True North: Ten Admirals and the Voyage of Character, by James Stavridis [Adm., USN (Ret.)]. New York: Penguin, 2019. 312 pages. \$28.

We are witnessing the slow death of character, postulates Admiral Stavridis in his new book. Using sea stories from a colorful group of admirals stretching across 2,500 years of history, Stavridis illuminates the most essential qualities